Thomas A. Edison Papers Digital Edition

Edison-Miller Family Records

Family Records Series, Part V

[F5F01A-F] Correspondence, John Burroughs (1910-1917)

Title
[F5F01A-F] Correspondence, John Burroughs (1910-1917)

Description
This folder contains fourteen letters written by naturalist and family friend John Burroughs to Mina Edison. Although only one of the letters bears a full date, internal evidence indicates that they cover the years 1910-1917. Subjects discussed in the correspondence include birds, health, family members, proposed visits to the various Burroughs and Edison residences, the Edison family trip to Europe in 1911, the major fire at Edison's West Orange factories in 1914, and World War I. The letters all have traces of paste on their back pages, suggesting that they were originally contained in a scrapbook.

URL

https://edisondigital.rutgers.edu/folder/F5F01A-F

Identifier

F5F01A-F

Type

Family Records

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Family Records Series -- Edison Family Papers -- Mina Edison Papers

Alternative Title

Correspondence -- John Burroughs (1910-1917)

Has Version

Archive.org Viewer, Microfilm Series Reel 285

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[F5F01A01], Letter from John Burroughs to Mina Miller (Mrs Thomas A.) Edison, March 8th, 1910

Title
[F5F01A01], Letter from John Burroughs to Mina Miller (Mrs Thomas A.) Edison, March 8th, 1910

Editor's Notes
Supplied year

Author
Burroughs, John

Recipient
Edison, Mina Miller (Mrs Thomas A.)

Mentioned
Rouland, Orlando

Date
1910-03-08

Type
Letter

Subject

- TAE friends and associates
- Travel (TAE and family)

Folder ID
F5F01A-F

Microfilm ID
285:350

Document ID
F5F01A01

URL
https://edisondigital.rutgers.edu/document/F5F01A01

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Timestamp
8 March 1910

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https://edisondigital.rutgers.edu/iiif/2/F5F01A01/manifest

c1910?J

West Park N.Y.
Mch 8th

Dear Mr Edison,

Thank you for
your letter of the 3d
Fort Myers Florida is on
the wing my way
now. The robins & song
sparrows are here &
the bluebirds are
home hunting & what
is still more to me.
"The day begins to stir"
in the morning & lays
out its stores like an
Eastern bird whose

you back the park
I have been working
maybe 4 days since the
4th & am enjoying the
work as I need to in
my backyard. I wished
today I could be with
you for a week, but it's
a too late for me now
& I should have to wait
for another season.
Our friends the Rowlands
are still in Texas,
I hope you & your family
will keep well & all
Come back rested &
happy. Very sincerely Yours
John Burroughs

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[F5F01A02], Letter from John Burroughs to Mina Miller (Mrs Thomas A.) Edison, March 23rd, 1910

Title
[F5F01A02], Letter from John Burroughs to Mina Miller (Mrs Thomas A.) Edison, March 23rd, 1910

Editor's Notes
Supplied year

Author
Burroughs, John

Recipient
Edison, Mina Miller (Mrs Thomas A.)

Date
1910-03-23

Type
Letter

Subject
TAE friends and associates

Folder ID
F5F01A-F

Microfilm ID
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Document ID
F5F01A02

URL
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Timestamp
23 March 1910

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[1910]

West Park N.Y.
March 23rd

Dear Mrs Edison

Your letter of the 15th created quite a strong title in my mind that sets in your direction. If it was a month earlier it would please me, But I am having such a good time here now making sugar & listening to the first spring birds When the first baby sparrow came two weeks ago my little granddaughter

Dorsa, age 5, heard it & came in & told her mother in great excitement that she had just heard "a reddy truly spring bird." Bless her little heart! I heard a robin I came up the next day & said nothing like that in Florida. I do not much enjoy the mocking bird. I have heard him in Fla. & last spring down & heard a good deal of him in Cala. He does not amuse me. He is too much of an actor, too theatrical. Yet I should like to be there & hear your songster & see the wild nature around you. I hope I can do it next winter.

Thank you for your invitation to come to Gleanmont in May or June. I would be nothing more that I desire now & more enjoying as. With sincere regards

John Burroughs

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[F5F01A03], Letter from John Burroughs to Mina Miller (Mrs Thomas A.) Edison, May 13th, 1911

Title
[F5F01A03], Letter from John Burroughs to Mina Miller (Mrs Thomas A.) Edison, May 13th, 1911

Editor's Notes
Supplied year

Author
Burroughs, John

Recipient
Edison, Mina Miller (Mrs Thomas A.)

Mentioned
Rouland, Orlando

Date
1911-05-13

Type
Letter

Subject
TAE friends and associates

Folder ID
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Microfilm ID
285:354

Document ID
F5F01A03

URL
https://edisondigital.rutgers.edu/document/F5F01A03

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Timestamp
13 May 1911

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https://edisondigital.rutgers.edu/iiif/2/F5F01A03/manifest

[1911?]

West Park N.Y.
May 13

Dear Mr Edison.

Owing to some
over sunday your letter
of the 3rd of April did
not come to my hand
till yesterday Sunday
made no difference, I
could not have come
to you on the 10th. I
have been a terrible
sufferer from neuritis
in my leg & am only
now just able to be
about. Probably Mrs

Rowland has told you.
I want to come to U.S.
before the Rowlands sail
for England if I get well
enough, & then I do not
shall want to run
over & visit you. If
not I may be able to
come in June.

Always Sincerely Yours
John Burroughs

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[F5F01A04], Letter from John Burroughs to Mina Miller (Mrs Thomas A.) Edison, June 10th, 1911

Title
[F5F01A04], Letter from John Burroughs to Mina Miller (Mrs Thomas A.) Edison, June 10th, 1911

Editor's Notes
Supplied year

Author
Burroughs, John

Recipient
Edison, Mina Miller (Mrs Thomas A.)

Mentioned

- Rouland, Minnie Dwight (Mrs Orlando)
- Rouland, Orlando

Date
1911-06-10

Type
Letter

Subject

- TAE friends and associates
- Travel (TAE and family)

Folder ID
F5F01A-F

Microfilm ID
285:356

Document ID
F5F01A04

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Timestamp
10 June 1911

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https://edisondigital.rutgers.edu/iiif/2/F5F01A04/manifest

[1911]

Port Park N.Y.
June 10

Dear Mr Edison.

Thank you for your very pleasant letter of the 7th. I had hoped to see you again this spring but my plans & engagements have kept me from coming your way. & now you are off for Europe while I hope to go this fall or winter. I propose to spend the summer at a place I have among my native hills in the Catskills.

The Rockland address

is 5 Prince St Cambridge
Susan M. Loudon,
If you see them remember
me to them,
With all good wishes
I am always, Sincerely Yours
John J Sumner

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[F5F01A05], Letter from John Burroughs to Mina Miller (Mrs Thomas A.) Edison, July 1st, 1911

Title
[F5F01A05], Letter from John Burroughs to Mina Miller (Mrs Thomas A.) Edison, July 1st, 1911

Author
Burroughs, John

Recipient
Edison, Mina Miller (Mrs Thomas A.)

Mentioned
Edison, Theodore Miller

Date
1911-07-01

Type
Letter

Subject

- TAE friends and associates
- Travel (TAE and family)

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Document ID
F5F01A05

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1 July 1911

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Roxbury,
Delaware Co.
N. Y.
July 1, 1911

My dear Mrs. Edison,

Your letter of June the 17th finds me up here in the Catskills at my new-old place called Woodchuck Lodge, on the farm where I was born & passed my youth. I find that I thrive better here in the summer than in any

other place – the altitude, the air, & the water seem to be just what I need. Then you know, I hope, how comforting, as one grows older, are the scenes of one's youth.

This is a country of broad open landscapes along flowing mountain lines, with cattle on the thousand hills.

I don't know whether you know the Catskills, but whether you do or not, you ought sometime to make a visit to them, in your early days. I know a lovely little inn where you could spend a day at very moderate cost, & I know the views here would delight your eyes & delight your soul. I shall be at Stockside, Prestbury in October, & should be delighted to receive a visit from you and Theodore. I should know whether this letter will

friend you in foreign
lands, as I forget the
day of your departure,
but wherever it reaches
you I hope it will find
you well & happy.

Sincerely your friend,
John Burroughs

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[F5F01A06], Letter from John Burroughs to Mina Miller (Mrs Thomas A.) Edison, May 8th, 1912

Title
[F5F01A06], Letter from John Burroughs to Mina Miller (Mrs Thomas A.) Edison, May 8th, 1912

Editor's Notes
Supplied year

Author
Burroughs, John

Recipient
Edison, Mina Miller (Mrs Thomas A.)

Mentioned
Rouland, Orlando

Date
1912-05-08

Type
Letter

Subject
TAE friends and associates

Folder ID
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Microfilm ID
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Document ID
F5F01A06

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8 May 1912

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https://edisondigital.rutgers.edu/iiif/2/F5F01A06/manifest

[1912?]

Atlantic City N.J.
May 8

Dear Mr Edison

Thank you for the invitation for Saturday I wish I could accept it but I cannot. I must leave home to-morrow But some day I hope to come out with the Rambouillets to visit you.

Very sincerely Yours
John Barrymore

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[F5F01A07], Letter from John Burroughs to Mina Miller (Mrs Thomas A.) Edison, May 27th, 1913

Title
[F5F01A07], Letter from John Burroughs to Mina Miller (Mrs Thomas A.) Edison, May 27th, 1913

Editor's Notes
Supplied year

Author
Burroughs, John

Recipient
Edison, Mina Miller (Mrs Thomas A.)

Mentioned
Rouland, Orlando

Date
1913-05-27

Type
Letter

Subject

- TAE friends and associates
- TAE visitors

Folder ID
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Microfilm ID
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Document ID
F5F01A07

URL
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Timestamp
27 May 1913

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[1913?]

130 WEST FIFTY-SEVENTH STREET

May 27th

Dear Mr Edison

Your letter of
the 22d passed me here,
much surprised that you
were well. I should like
to come out Saturday
P.M. & spend Sunday
with you, staying till Monday.
If I find I can stay
longer I will be glad to
do so. Mrs Mr Hardwick
will come with me.
If you had rather I will

Till Monday drop me a
line.
always kindly yours
John Burroughs

P.S. He will take the 5th P.M.
train.

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[F5F01A08], Letter from John Burroughs to Mina Miller (Mrs Thomas A.) Edison, June 4th, 1913

Title
[F5F01A08], Letter from John Burroughs to Mina Miller (Mrs Thomas A.) Edison, June 4th, 1913

Editor's Notes
Supplied year

Author
Burroughs, John

Recipient
Edison, Mina Miller (Mrs Thomas A.)

Mentioned
Edison, Thomas Alva

Date
1913-06-04

Type
Letter

Subject

- TAE friends and associates
- TAE visitors

Folder ID
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Microfilm ID
285:364

Document ID
F5F01A08

URL
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4 June 1913

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[1913?]

West Park N.Y.
June 4th

Dear Mrs Edison,

I came back home on Tuesday, in little better heart & health I think than when I left. thanks to you & Mr Edison & that fine auto, Mike. I am going out to my old home

at Roxbury to-day, to drink
again at the fountains of
my youth & to try to
dream the old dreams
on the hills & in the woods.
The memory of my visit
to your beautiful home
will long stay with me.
With sincere regards
John Burroughs

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[F5F01A09], Letter from John Burroughs to Mina Miller (Mrs Thomas A.) Edison, September 27th, 1913

Title
[F5F01A09], Letter from John Burroughs to Mina Miller (Mrs Thomas A.) Edison, September 27th, 1913

Editor's Notes
Supplied year

Author
Burroughs, John

Recipient
Edison, Mina Miller (Mrs Thomas A.)

Mentioned

- Ford, Henry
- Edison, Thomas Alva

Date
1913-09-27

Type
Letter

Subject

- TAE health
- TAE friends and associates
- Travel (TAE and family)

Folder ID
F5F01A-F

Microfilm ID
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Document ID
F5F01A09

URL
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Timestamp
27 September 1913

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[1913]

Roxbury N. Y.
Sept 27

Dear Mrs Edison,

I am very glad to see that Mr Edison is again back in his beloved laboratory. He ought to have a summer laboratory up here amid these restful Catskill hills. It would add to his length of days to spend July & August up here & to your self. I can work here all summer & grow fat while in the Hudson River valley I do less & grow lean. Mr Edison must begin to take his rest, & this is the place to do it. Come up here, & look for your lodge. A

radical change of climate is what he needs.

If we had known how ill Mr Edison was that Sunday we should have made a more determined effort to keep him. I worried a good deal about you after you had gone. That long ride in one half day was too much for even a well man, I am pretty tough but that would have used me up. I have some hopes that Mr Ford will build a bungalow here. I keep well & hope to spend most of Oct. here. The glory of the autumn foliage is now upon us. With warm greetings to you all I am

Always Sincerely Yours

John Burroughs

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[F5F01A10], Letter from John Burroughs to Mina Miller (Mrs Thomas A.) Edison, November 30th, 1914

Title
[F5F01A10], Letter from John Burroughs to Mina Miller (Mrs Thomas A.) Edison, November 30th, 1914

Editor's Notes
Supplied year

Author
Burroughs, John

Recipient
Edison, Mina Miller (Mrs Thomas A.)

Mentioned

- Yama Farms
- Ford, Henry
- Edison, Thomas Alva

Date
1914-11-30

Type
Letter

Subject
TAE friends and associates

Folder ID
F5F01A-F

Microfilm ID
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Document ID
F5F01A10

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Timestamp
30 November 1914

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C1914J

file special letters

West Park, N.Y.
Nov 30.

Dear Mr Edison,

Your letter of the 19th did not reach me till I had returned home. I got very tired in N.Y. as I usually do, long before I had seen all my friends. I suffer in health & my work suffers every time I make a trip there. I wanted to come out & see you & Mr Edison but my time was too crowded.

On Thursday we leave for Yama Farms Inn at Napanoch where we expect to spend part of the winter. That is a unique & famous Inn & I think you & Mr Edison would greatly enjoy a week end there & I hope you will come up while we are there. In Feb. we shall probably go to Fla. again. With best wishes for the winter I am as always,

Sincerely Yours,

John Burroughs.

Mr Ford has been at Yama Farms Inn.

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[F5F01A11], Letter from John Burroughs to Mina Miller (Mrs Thomas A.) Edison, February 14th, 1915

Title
[F5F01A11], Letter from John Burroughs to Mina Miller (Mrs Thomas A.) Edison, February 14th, 1915

Editor's Notes
Supplied year

Author
Burroughs, John

Recipient
Edison, Mina Miller (Mrs Thomas A.)

Mentioned

- New York Tribune
- Burroughs, Ursula North (Mrs John)
- Edison, Thomas Alva

Date
1915-02-14

Type
Letter

Subject

- Edison-Miller family
- TAE friends and associates
- Travel (TAE and family)
- World War I
- Accidents, fires, explosions

Folder ID
F5F01A-F

Microfilm ID
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Document ID
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14 February 1915

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[1915]

Experiment Ga
Feb 14,

Dear Mrs Edison,

We left Yama Farms two before your letter of the 9th reached them. We have been here a week & have greatly enjoyed the change from the rigors of winter to this April like weather. Both my wife & me were badly knocked out with colds when we left there, but we are nearly ourselves again now, except that wife suffers from rheumatism. We thank you for the invitation to run down to Seminole Lodge while you & Mrs Edison are there, but wife thinks she is too lame to undertake the long journey, & I soon expect to be overwhelmed

with the proofs of my new volume.
We hope to get back home by
or before April 1st
I have thought much about you
& Mr Edison since your great
fire & am rejoiced to know that
your hope & courage proved in-
combustible. I would have left
on those cement buildings but I
see I would have lost. You are
wise to be looking out for a
retreat somewhere in the mountains.
It should be outside of Jersey I
think. Mr Edison should have
a radical change of air for
three months. I think there is no
place like the Catskills where
the air & the water are the best
on Earth. If Roxbury is too far,
then consider Shandaken about
Pine Hill, from which place the
morning train would take him
to Orange by noon, or a motor
car in 5 hours. Roxbury is about
150 miles from N.Y. with good

state road all the way.
I wish I could help you find a
suitable place. To me the main
objection to the Hudson River valley
is the heat.
No man's good opinion of my
Tribune letter on the war, could
please me more than that of
Mr Edison, I am rejoiced to have
it. The war is a world tragedy
& the thought of it grips me
night & day, I pray that I may
live to see it end with Germany
— her military power — utterly crushed.
I hope you can hold Mr Edison to
the 11 o'clock hour for bed time.
My hour is 9. & it helps me in
working trim. I trust the boys
are well & Madeline also. Remember
me to her. With cordial greetings
to Mr Edison & yourself I am
Faithfully Yours
John Burroughs

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[F5F01A12], Letter from John Burroughs to Mina Miller (Mrs Thomas A.) Edison, May 4th, 1915

Title
[F5F01A12], Letter from John Burroughs to Mina Miller (Mrs Thomas A.) Edison, May 4th, 1915

Editor's Notes
Supplied year

Author
Burroughs, John

Recipient
Edison, Mina Miller (Mrs Thomas A.)

Mentioned

- Civic Forum
- Houghton Mifflin & Co
- Ford, Henry

Date
1915-05-04

Type
Letter

Subject

- Awards & honors/clubs & societies
- TAE friends and associates
- TAE visitors

Folder ID
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4 May 1915

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C1915J

West Park N.Y.
May 4th.

Dear Mrs Edison.

I have just rec'd your telegram of the date, I plan to go to N.Y. Thursday morning reaching there by about 9:30. I have some business at Houghton Mifflin Co - no 16 East 40th Street, after which I will come to Orange & your house, reaching there in time for lunch, or as near 12 O'Clock as I can. I can spend the afternoon with you & Mrs Edison

& go with you to N.Y. in the evening. If Mr Ford is in N.Y. I shall want to go to his hotel after the ceremony, I must return home on Friday P.M.
I shall be delighted to see you & Mr Edison again.
Always Sincerely Yours
John Burroughs

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[F5F01A13], Letter from John Burroughs to Mina Miller (Mrs Thomas A.) Edison, August 12th, 1916

Title
[F5F01A13], Letter from John Burroughs to Mina Miller (Mrs Thomas A.) Edison, August 12th, 1916

Editor's Notes
Supplied year

Author
Burroughs, John

Recipient
Edison, Mina Miller (Mrs Thomas A.)

Mentioned

- Burroughs, Ursula North (Mrs John)
- Ford, Henry
- Firestone, Harvey Samuel
- Barrus, Clara
- Edison, Thomas Alva

Date
1916-08-12

Type
Letter

Subject

- TAE friends and associates
- Travel (TAE and family)

Folder ID
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Microfilm ID
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Document ID
F5F01A13

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12 August 1916

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[1916]

Woodchuck Lodge
Roxbury N.Y.
Aug 12

Dear Mrs Edison.

The invitation to go a gipsying with Mr Edison & Mr Ford appeals to me. I have a pure strain of the vagabond in me. I might not be above visiting kin roots & playing the jockey with the farmers. If you went along to tell fortunes we might pass as a real Gipsy troop. Mr Edison could play the magician & Mr Ford the

me to leave my poor wife in
this hour of her feebleness &
suffering. For we have lived
together nearly 50 years, &
the ties that bind us are like
vital adhesions. Where do
the boys propose to go? I
could join them anywhere on
the Hudson, or the Delaware, &
the Susquehanna valleys,
I like the thought of the White
Hills, or the hills of Penn,
or parts of the Catskills.
If Dr Barnes comes next week
& gives me her opinion of Mrs B's
condition, probably I can say
definitely yes or no. My own
health is very good. With
greetings to the Edison & the
boys I am

always Sincerely Yours
John Burroughs

watch & clock tinker, I do
not know about the Finstone
may be he could have as an
umbrella mender, or herb
doctor.

Seriously, I see but one
thing that might prevent me
joining the roving band, & that
is the condition of my wife.
She is very feeble & at times
a great sufferer, I think she
has gained a little since she
came here over three weeks
ago, but she is doubtful. If
Dr Barnes & her sister Mrs
Johnson come before the date
you name — & I am sure
Dr B. will — & my wife is no
worse than she is now, I
will go. I wish I could banish
those ifs, but I cannot. I
think it highly probable that I
can go — though it is hard for

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[F5F01A14], Letter from John Burroughs to Mina Miller (Mrs Thomas A.) Edison, August 5th, 1917

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Author
Burroughs, John

Recipient
Edison, Mina Miller (Mrs Thomas A.)

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- Ford, Henry
- Edison, Thomas Alva

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[1917?]

"WOODCHUCK LODGE"
ROXBURY-IN-THE-CATSKILLS
NEW YORK

Aug 6,

Dear Mrs Edison,

My heart leaped up when I opened that basket of fruit, not so much in hunger for the fruit, as in appreciation of the kind thought that prompted the sending of it. It made the eyes of all of us dance in our heads. I was expecting a box of corn from my garden at West Park & the man who brought the basket up to us from the station thought he had the corn, but such corn as that never grew in garden of mine. It was a fine gift & I thank you & Mr Edison from my heart. The flavor of it will be upon my tongue

daily for many days. I have had quite a serious illness, but I am gaining steadily & am almost well again. I have been too young for my years & must henceforth try to keep step with the procession of old men & not try to lead the boys up the mountains as I have been doing. You should see how green & beautiful this country is now, only we are having too much rain & fog. A good auto trip for you & Mr Edison would be up here some week end We could house you & feed you nicely. A state road all the way to Roxbury now. I am expecting Mr Ford daily, but he is not a punctual bird. I hope to be here till Oct. With much love to you & Mr Edison & the boys I am Ever Sincerely Yours

John Burroughs